



CENTER OF EXCELLENCE
IN DISASTER MANAGEMENT
& HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

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**ASIA-PACIFIC DISEASE OUTBREAK
/SURVEILLANCE REPORT**

Week of Oct 31, 2005

AUSTRALIA

Second Salmonella Outbreak in Tasmania, Australia

Ten cases of salmonella have been reported in Tasmania, Australia, making it the State's second incident of salmonella in less than a month. The victims ate food from a restaurant and were admitted to a hospital after testing positive for salmonella. There is no link between this occurrence and the previous salmonella outbreak in October [2005]. The Health Department believes the victims were infected about 10 days ago. The source of the outbreak has not been determined but is currently being investigated. Over 150 salmonella cases are recorded in Tasmania each year.

Source:

- The Advertiser, Oct 31, 2005, http://www.theadvertiser.news.com.au/common/story_page/0,5936,17089719%255E1702,00.html
- ABC News Online, Oct 31, 2005, <http://www.abc.net.au/news/newsitems/200510/s1494097.htm>
- The Examiner, Nov 01, 2005, <http://www.examiner.com.au/story.asp?id=314375>

BANGLADESH

Bangladesh Concerned with Hepatitis C Epidemic

Bangladesh has reported that over four million people (3% of the population) are infected with the Hepatitis C virus, and experts foresee an epidemic infecting millions more. Bangladesh's population is particularly susceptible to the disease for reasons including transfusions with untested blood, needle sharing for drug injections, and barbers using shaving razors and blades on many people. About 60% of those infected with Hepatitis C are drug addicts. There are suspicions that the three blood banks in Bangladesh are not testing their blood supply properly. Experts believe the population would benefit from a mass awareness campaign to help stop the spread of infection.

Source:

- The Khaleej Times Online, Oct 31, 2005,

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CHINA

Cholera Outbreak Contained in Eastern China

Provincial health officials have reported that the cholera outbreak in eastern China is mostly under control. Since the end of last week, no new cases have been reported. From the beginning of September [2005] until mid-October [2005], 184 cholera cases and 60 cholera bacteria carriers were reported. The source of the cholera outbreak is believed to be due to people consuming unsanitary water and food and a lack of awareness of personal hygiene.

Source:

· China View, Oct 29, 2005, http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2005-10/29/content_3699847.htm

HONG KONG

Food Poisoning Reported in Hong Kong Hotel

Eleven people experienced food poisoning at a hotel in Hong Kong on 27 October [2005]. The victims ate food at the hotel's buffet and later experienced diarrhea, stomach pain, nausea, fever and vomiting. Currently, all of the people are in stable condition and were not hospitalized. Preliminary investigations have revealed bacterial contamination as the probable source.

Source:

· News.gov.hk, Oct 29, 2005, <http://news.gov.hk/en/74a15d71-25c2-46ca-932b-cf7bb1c678d9.htm>

Hong Kong Reports 23rd Dengue Case

The Centre for Health Protection in Hong Kong has reported another case of dengue fever, raising the number of cases this year to 23. The latest infection is a 50-year-old woman, who imported the disease after visiting Bangladesh. The woman experienced symptoms in Bangladesh, including fever, chills, headache, muscle pain and sore eyes, and was admitted to a hospital upon her return to Hong Kong. She has since been discharged. All of Hong Kong's dengue fever cases this year [2005] have been imported from other countries.

Source:

· News.gov.hk, Nov 01, 2005, <http://news.gov.hk/en/category/healthandcommunity/051101/html/051101en05001.htm>

INDIA

Encephalitis Deaths Increase to Over 1,300 in North India

The death toll from Japanese encephalitis in the northern Indian state of Uttar Pradesh increased to over 1,300 on 4 November. At least nine more children died of the mosquito-borne disease (overnight) taking the toll to 1302. The vast majority of the

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dead are children, mostly malnourished and under the age of 15. Some 250 people are still in state-run hospitals with encephalitis. The encephalitis outbreak was first reported from Gorakhpur, 250 kilometers (155 miles) southeast of Lucknow in July and more than 4,900 cases have since been reported across the state of 180 million people. The concern is that the disease has spread to new areas particularly to the western part of the state. Japanese encephalitis first surfaced in Uttar Pradesh in 1978, killing 721 people, and has become endemic.

Source:

· Khaleej Times, Nov 04, 2005,

http://www.khaleejtimes.com/DisplayArticle.asp?xfile=data/subcontinent/2005/November/subcontinent_November134.xml§ion=subcontinent&col

Over 100 People Ill from Waterborne Disease in South India

More than 100 people have been admitted to hospitals with waterborne diseases in the southern city of Madras, but health officials consider the situation under control. Most of those admitted to hospitals in the city were suffering from diarrhea, but authorities put hospitals and clinics on alert for other waterborne diseases as well after two children tested positive for cholera. Most cases were confined to poor people living in the waterlogged areas in the northern part of Madras, where sanitary conditions are poor. The city administration has advised people to boil water before drinking it and to avoid uncooked food.

Source:

· Khaleej Times, Nov 04, 2005,

http://www.khaleejtimes.com/DisplayArticle.asp?xfile=data/subcontinent/2005/November/subcontinent_November144.xml§ion=subcontinent&col

Dengue Fever on the Rise in India

Dengue fever is increasing in Ludhiana, India (close to New Delhi). The total number of cases in the area is at 463. Medical clinics have seen an increase in the number of cases in the past 10 days. Experts believe that water stored at construction sites serve as breeding areas for the Aedes mosquitoes.

Source:

· Times of India, Oct 26, 2005, <http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/articleshow/1275011.cms>

· Ludhiana Newslite, Oct 26, 2005, <http://cities.expressindia.com/fullstory.php?newsid=154710>

· ProMED-mail, Oct 30, 2005,

http://www.promedmail.org/pls/askus/f?p=2400:1001:1329283286113977926::NO::F2400_P1001_BACK_PAGE,F2400_P1001_PUB_MAIL_ID:1000,30863

India Hopes to be Polio-Free

Later this year [2005] or early next year [2006], the Health and Family Welfare Minister is expected to report that India is polio-free. From January through September [2005], there have only been confirmed 30 cases of polio in India. In 2004, only 134 cases were recorded. In India, type 1 polio is endemic, but type 2 has been eradicated and type 3 has been controlled and restricted to four districts in Uttar Pradesh.

Source:

· WebIndia123.com, Oct 31, 2005, http://news.webindia123.com/news/showdetails.asp?id=150650&n_date=20051031&cat=Health

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MALAYSIA

Dengue Fever Cases Increase in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

The Health Ministry has reported an increase in dengue cases in Kuala Lumpur, but a decrease in cases in most other States. The death toll has increased to 83 this year [2005]. The number of suspected dengue cases since the beginning of the year [2005] is close to 33,000, although the number of confirmed cases is only 9,381. The Aedes mosquito has becoming resistant to most of the pesticides used in Malaysia.

Source:

- Malay Mail Online, Oct 26, 2005, http://www.mmail.com.my/Current_News/MM/Wednesday/National/20051026105320/Article/index_html
- ProMED-mail, Oct 30, 2005, http://www.promedmail.org/pls/askus/f?p=2400:1001:1329283286113977926::NO::F2400_P1001_BACK_PAGE,F2400_P1001_PUB_MAIL_ID:1000,30863
- Bernama.com, Oct 31, 2005, <http://www.bernama.com.my/bernama/v3/news.php?id=163178>
- Prensa Latina, Nov 01, 2005, <http://www.plenglish.com/article.asp?ID=%7B0BCE4A8C-94BB-4D15-9421-E211EE24E9BB%7D&language=EN>

SINGAPORE

56 Cases of Dengue Occurring Daily in Singapore

The number of confirmed deaths from dengue fever in Singapore has increased to 19 this year [2005] and the number of reported cases is close to 13,000. Health officials are optimistic that the number of new cases will steadily decrease as the disease has reached its peak. The daily average number of new dengue cases is 56.

Source:

- ABC Asia Pacific, Oct 26, 2005, http://abcasiapacific.com/news/stories/asiapacific_stories_1491397.htm
- ProMED-mail, Oct 30, 2005, http://www.promedmail.org/pls/askus/f?p=2400:1001:1329283286113977926::NO::F2400_P1001_BACK_PAGE,F2400_P1001_PUB_MAIL_ID:1000,30863

THAILAND

Third Case of Avian Influenza Reported in Thailand

A 50-year-old woman has tested positive for the H5N1 strain of avian influenza in Thailand. This new account brings the number of confirmed cases to three this year [2005]. The woman recently cleaned an area where infected chickens had been recently culled. Disease control experts believe the disease was transmitted when she was sweeping the chicken droppings. She is currently receiving medical treatment in Bangkok and recovering.

Source:

- Forbes.com, Oct 31, 2005, <http://www.forbes.com/markets/feeds/afx/2005/10/31/afx2308138.html>
- Reuters AlertNet, Oct 31, 2005, <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/BKK263938.htm>
- The Star, Nov 01, 2005, <http://www.thestar.co.za/index.php?fSectionId=132&fArticleId=2974874>
- China View, Nov 01, 2005, http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2005-11/01/content_3715052.htm
- World Health Organization, Nov 01, 2005, http://www.who.int/csr/don/2005_11_01/en/index.html

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VIETNAM

Avian Influenza Deaths in Vietnam

Two people with avian influenza symptoms died at the end of last month [October 2005] in Vietnam. The latest victims are a 14-year old girl and a 26-year old man, who had eaten duck and a chicken's egg prior to becoming ill. The two incidents are not related, but both patients experienced severe respiratory problems, fever, pneumonia and lung infection. The death toll for avian influenza is over 40. In mid-November, the Ministry of Health will be practicing a bird flu response in different regions of the country. Vietnam has not reported any new cases of H5N1 virus since 24 July 2005.

Source:

- Reuters AlertNet, Oct 29, 2005, <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/HAN134248.htm>
- ProMED-mail, Oct 29, 2005, http://www.promedmail.org/pls/askus/f?p=2400:1001:1329283286113977926::NO::F2400_P1001_BACK_PAGE,F2400_P1001_PUB_MAIL_ID:1010,30851
- Vietnam Net Bridge, Nov 01, 2005, <http://english.vietnamnet.vn/social/2005/11/506487/>

Other World News

PAKISTAN

Tetanus Infections Increase after Pakistan Earthquake

The number of tetanus deaths in Pakistan has increased to 44 after the earthquake. Medical authorities are concerned that at least 3% of the injured victims may be infected with the disease. The supply of vaccines is also a concern since they are not arriving in a timely manner to treat patients. There have been 140 confirmed cases of tetanus.

Source:

- Islamic Republic News Agency, Oct 29, 2005, <http://www.irna.ir/en/news/view/menu-235/0510299459150952.htm>
- ReliefWeb, Nov 01, 2005, <http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/RWB.NSF/db900SID/EVOD-6HQDYV?OpenDocument>

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